 **11th GRADE BIOLOGY SYLLABUS 2017-2018**

**Instructor:** Ms. Jost, gjost@latinpcs.org

Room 227

**Course Description**

Derived from the Greek word *bios*, biology is the science of life. In this course you will investigate the functions and processes of the most basic units of life to the more complex relationships between living systems. Through the exploration of the structure and functions of the molecules that give rise to life, the cells that support organisms, and the organisms that make up our world’s ecosystems, this course is designed to help you unpack the concepts, principles, and theories of the living environment. In addition, students enrolled in this course are expected to: (1) gain an understanding of the history and development of biological knowledge, (2) develop critical thinking skills, and (3) investigate biological questions and problems related to personal needs and societal issues.

**Organization**

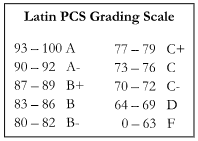
Students are required to keep an organized binder of all their work throughout the year. It should be three-ringed, organized into the following 4 sections respectively: Unit 1: Biochemistry, Unit 2: Cellular Biology, Unit 3: Organismal Biology, and Unit 4: Systems Biology. Each Unit will span roughly one quarter of the academic year but the final exam will be cumulative so you will want to keep all of your materials throughout the course. Within each tab, you should include all homework, labs, and other handouts from that unit. Each unit is divided into subsections, and per each subsection your work will be presented in the form of a packet. Each packet includes a capacity matrix that allows you to easily track your completed work, thus I strongly recommend you do not remove pages from the packets and be especially careful not to lose them.

**What you need for class each day:**

* **Current packet (supplied by Ms. J)**
* **3-ring binder (2 inches or larger strongly recommended)**
* **Pen or pencil**

**Grading**

Each assignment, besides test and quizzes, in this class will be graded according to the following three categories: Late/Missing (M), Incomplete/Incorrect (I), and Complete & Correct (C). Any assignment not submitted by the unit test will be given a fixed score of zero (0). Incomplete or incorrect work will be recorded as a 60%, however the student has the opportunity to redo and resubmit that assignment up until **the day of the unit test** to receive full credit**.** All work submitted as complete and correct, regardless of the number of resubmissions, will be recorded as a 100%. **All assignments for each unit must be submitted by the unit test; no late assignments will be accepts after the unit test.**

Each student will receive quarterly grades based on the quality of work according to the following guidelines:

        Tests/Summative Assessments         30%

Quizzes/Formative Assessments 15%

        Labs/Projects                   20%

Classwork/Participation/Catalysts 20%

Homework 15%

**Retake Criteria**

I do not provide “extra” credit as students have every opportunity to redo/resubmit assignments throughout each unit to regain any points that may have originally have been deducted. Quizzes may always be retaken but there is only one retake per quiz. Test retakes are an option granted the student meets the following criteria:

1)  You have correctly completed and submitted, in a timely manner, all relevant work for that unit;

2)  You have a sincere desire to improve your understanding of the course material;

3)  You are only re-taking the most recent test; and

4)  The test you would like to retake falls within the current grading period.

**Makeup Work/Late Homework**

        When you are absent, *it is your responsibility to obtain make up work from your teacher on the day that you return to class*.  The number of days missed will be the time allotted for you to make up the missed assignments.  It is your responsibility to turn in these assignments.  If you miss the day of a test, you will take a different version of the test on the day you return. There will be no test make-up or retake opportunity for students who are deliberately absent on the day of an exam. Lastly, per Washington Latin policy, **no late homework will be accepted**. Homework that is not submitted on time will simply receive a 0 in the grade book.

**Attendance**

Per school-wide policy, *if a student is late, without a valid excuse as determined by the teacher, to an individual class more than 3 times in a quarter, on the 4th time, he/she will automatically lose 5% from his/her quarter grade. If a student is then late another 3 times, on the 8th time, he/she will lose another 5%.*

**Academic Integrity**

        If student grades are based primarily on achievement and mastery of course content, students must also be aware of how their academic behavior can affect themselves and the rest of the class. Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Here are the basic assumptions about academic work for this class: students arrive to class on time every day, students attend class in order to grow and learn; academic assignments exist for the sake of this goal; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained; thus, all work and all grades should result from the student’s own effort to learn and grow; academic work completed in any other way is pointless, and grades obtained in any other way are fraudulent.

Academic integrity means understanding and respecting these basic values, without which no school can exist. Academic misconduct – “cheating” – is not just against the rules, it violates the assumptions at the heart of all learning. It destroys the mutual trust and respect that should exist between student and teacher. Finally, it is unfair to students who earn their grades honestly, and ultimately will NOT be tolerated in my class.

**Behavioral Expectations/Class Participation**

        Students are expected to be active participants in their own learning by participating in all laboratory, classroom, and home exercises and to do so in a responsible manner. Food and drink are *not* permitted in the biology room!  (This includes candy and gum.)  Cell phones and other electronic devices are *not* to be visible or audible in the biology room, as they should be “parked” in the designated cell phone slots in the room upon arrival (per school wide policy).

**Tutoring/Office Hours**

I strongly suggest you find a friend or group of friends to study with and who can become your peer tutors. Should you need additional assistance with your coursework at any point in time, feel free to stop by **Ms. J’s Room 227 during Tutorial from 3:15-3:45 M-TH.** It is helpful to arrive with specific questions/comments/concerns that can be addressed. Students will be assisted in order of arrival.

**RETURN THIS PAGE TO MS. JOST**

By signing below, I verify that I have read and understood, in its entirety, the Biology Syllabus. In addition, I understand that I am solely responsible for my actions, and will abide by classroom policies and procedures for the duration of this Biology course. I will conduct myself with academic integrity and respect the voices and opinions of my peers.

Student name (print):           \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student email (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature:            \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Slot Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian cell phone:    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_